

May 26, 1952

Dr. B. H. Wenrich
Zoological Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Wenrich:

Thank you for the information about "Sex in microorganisms".

It would be pretty difficult to guess at the market for the book without some idea of its scope and cost. I would suppose you might be able to dispose of as many as 5000 if the book finds a general appeal at a moderate cost. If it runs to \$5 or more, my guess would be around 2000.

As to the size of my own contribution, I am again still guessing, but I would say between 10 and 15 printed pages, depending on the number of illustrations that seem advisable. We do have some cytological preparations, contrasting haploid with diploid cultures, that are probably relevant to my topic. The others would be diagrams of recombination and perhaps a photograph of colonial phenotypes.

An essential part of the methodology of bacterial recombination study has to do with the behavior and procurement of biochemical mutants. Do you think we should recount this, or should we refer to other published accounts and hope the readers who don't have this background can get by? I would sooner do one or the other, and not compromise with a hasty précis.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg